| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | - | - | 01 | 80 |
| 7. | Delhi | 01 | 6 | - | - |
| 8. | Goa | 04 | 290.98 | - | - |
| 9. | Gujarat | 19 | 10682.25 | 10 | 5439 |
| 10. | Haryana | 19 | 818.408 | 27 | 43002 |
| 11. | Himachal Pradesh | - | - | 03 | 5030 |
| 12. | Jharkhand | 01 | 36 | - | - |
| 13. | Karnataka | 27 | 1566.339 | 17 | 4720.962 |
| 14. | Kerala | 10 | 569.651 | 02 | 414 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | 04 | 7125 | 06 | 9309.25 |
| 16. | Maharashtra | 47 | 8130.8 | 25 | 33041.09 |
| 17. | Orissa | 05 | 745.61 | 08 | 4263.3 |
| 18. | Pondicherry | 01 | 346 | - | - |
| 19. | Punjab | 04 | 252 | 07 | 1571 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 03 | 89.23 | 08 | 13351.52 |
| 21. | Tamil Nadu | 25 | 1300.571 | 12 | 5078.02 |
| 22. | Uttarnachal | 03 | 468.2 | 01 | 14 |
| 23. | Uttar Pradesh | 08 | 133.83 | 10 | 5954.25 |
| 24. | West Bengal | 07 | 170.26 | 14 | 11827.14 |
| | TOTAL: | 234 | 35152.826 | 162 | 148892.2 |

**Rate of growth of agricultural production**

1204. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp and steady drop in the rate of growth of agricultural production over the last 25 years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that at the national level, average agricultural growth decelerated from an average of 3.2 per cent during 1980-1922 to just 2.4 per cent over 1992—2003; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to address the problems the agricultural sector is facing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. The growth rate of agricultural production, measured in terms of GDP from agriculture including livestock sector

showed periodic fluctuations over the last 25 years, with maximum growth rate of 16.8 percent in 1988-89 and minimum growth rate of (-) 8.1 per cent in 2002-03.

(b) The average annual growth rate of agriculture including livestock decelerated from 3.2 per cent during 1980-92 to 2.4 per cent during 1992-2003.

(c) Some of major steps initiated by the Central Government to address the problems of agricultural sector are given below:

- Implementation of Integrated Cereal Development Programme (ICDP) in Rice, Wheat and other Cereal-based cropping system areas, Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based cropping system and Sepcial Jute Development Programme.
- Expansion of Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) for increasing the yield potential of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize as announced in the Union Budget 2007-08.
- Announcement of Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) well before the commencement of sowing season to enable farmers to decide on the choice of crops to be growh by them.
- Agricultural diversification through horticulture and floriculture.
- Development/strengthening of modern agricultural markets through creation of space attracting investment from private and cooperative sectors for the development of direct marketing/contract farming etc.
- Reorientation of banks towards extending credit, especially crop loan, to farmers at concessional rate of interests.
- Revitalization of Agricultural research to ensure full exploitation of scientific advances for improving productivity according to agro-climatic conditions.
- Revitalization of Agricultural extension system through Krishi Vigyan Kendras in each district and making extension system farmer friendly by way of autonomous institutional arrangements for technological

dissemination in the form of "Agricultural Technology Management Agency" (ATMA) at district level.

- Setting up of National Rainfed Area Authority has been approved to deal with the problems faced by rainfed areas.
- Creation of additional irrigation potential under Bharat Nirman programme.
- Raising of fertilizer subsidies as announced in the Union Budget 2007-08.

**Package for Punjab**

†1205. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister had announced a package in Vadarbha region to give relief to the farmers of Maharashtra;

(b) whether Government have any plan to announce a package for the farmers of Punjab who have been crushed under the burden of debts;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when the package would be announced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Rehabilitation package announced by the Government of India targets to tackle the problems in the 31 Districts in 4 States of country which have been identified as the worst affected Districts reporting maximum number of suicide by the farmers. The criteria for selection of districts have been the severity and magnitude of suicide by farmers. The endeavour of the Government is to correct the situation in these districts so that spate of suicides by farmers in these areas could be checked.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.